



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

USGS
Columbia Environmental Research Center
Conference Building
4200 New Haven Road
Columbia, Missouri

June 18, 2002

10:00 a.m.

MEETING AGENDA

Stream Teams and Volunteer Monitoring, Priscilla Stotts, WPCP

303(d) List on Public Notice, Becky Shannon, WPCP

Update on SALT Projects, Ken Struempf, SWCP

Role of Watershed Stewardship & Sciences Center & Water Quality Training,
Bob Broz, University Outreach & Extension

How Budget Constraints will Effect Outreach & Environmental Quality,
Tom Henderson, Director of Extension Program, UMC

Other

Agency Activities

Meetings & Conferences

MISSOURI WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

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Attendees:

Bob Steiert	US EPA Region 7	Tom Wallace	Midwest Env Consultants
Pete Davis	US EPA Region 7	Jack Dutra	Syngenta
Sharon Clifford	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP	Leslie Holloway	MO Farm Bureau
Cindy Wolken	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP	Rhett Breugarth	MO Farm Bureau
Anne Peery	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP	Verel Benson	UMC-FAPRI
Bob Broz	Univ. Outreach & Extension	Alan Fandrey	Barr Engineering Co.
Tom Henderson	MU Extension Division	Davin Althoff	DNR/WPSCD/SWCP
Bill Kurtz	MU Extension	Ken Struempfler	DNR/WPSCD/SWCP
Steve Bauguess	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP	Michael Heaton	DNR/WPSCD/NERO-WPCP
Donna Menown	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP	Craig Reichert	DNR/WPSCD/NERO-PDWP
Gail Wilson	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP	Adam Coulter	Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Jerri Davis	USGS-WRD	Wendi Rogers	UMC-FAPRI
Miya Barr	USGS-WRD	Dorris Bender	Independence Water Pollution Control
Michael Bollinger	Ameren	Dave Drennan	MO Dairy Association
Terry Timmons	DNR/WPSCD/PDWP	Kevin Perry	REGFORM
Richard Gaffney	DNR/GSRAD/WRP	Sallie Keeney	REGFORM
Angel Kruzen	Water Sentinel Sierra Club	Bob Ball	USDA-NRCS
Tom Moran	Water Sentinel Sierra Club	Neil Babik	Mark Twain National Forest
Cindy DiStefano	MO Dept. of Conservation	Mike Duvall	St. Charles Co. Government
Paul Andre	MO Dept. of Agriculture	Becky Shannon	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Roger Korenberg	DNR/OAC/EAO	Darlene Schaben	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Hillis Rice	USDA-FSA	Priscilla Stotts	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP

Stream Teams and Volunteer Monitoring, Priscilla Stotts, WPCP

The three agencies that sponsor the Stream Team Program include MO Department of Conservation, Conservation Federation of MO and MO Department of Natural Resources. There are approximately 35,000-40,000 members. They have just celebrated having their 2000th Stream Team join the program.

The Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program is the second most popular activity that stream teams do. The first is litter pick-ups. Copies were available of the Stream Team 2001 Annual Report. Training is available for learning to monitor streams. Students are taught how to map the watershed they are working in; how to pick a good site; to do a visual survey and do biological monitoring. Priscilla displayed samples of the different kinds of equipment that volunteers receive at the different levels of training. This is a citizen driven program. The main goal is to help stop the degradation of the streams and natural resources in Missouri. There are over 2400 trained volunteers and approximately 300 active monitors that send in their monitoring data.

Priscilla brought in a water sample, including bugs, from Grindstone Creek and challenged the group to figure out the water quality rating. Other workshops available are fish identification workshops, understanding streams, which covers hydrology issues, crayfish identification, distance learning advocacy workshop (not done often) and an amphibian identification workshop is being developed.

This year, Priscilla has just started helping citizens to officially name unnamed tributaries. She is working with the Secretary of State's office on this and is the liaison between the Missouri Board of Geographic Names and Stream Teams.

DNR and MDC use the info that stream teams collect as baseline data. This data is sometimes used as a red flag. Mark Twain National Forest, MoDOT consultants, Planning and Zoning Authorities, TMDL staff and many others also use this data.

Priscilla thinks that the program works because of the educational outreach. Because education is able to change the attitudes of citizens about environmental issues and change personal behavior, discouraged citizens can be encouraged through this program. It encourages adults to be curious.

The Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop schedule is on the web at www.mostreamteam.org. It was mentioned that other states have stated they would like to have a stream team program like Missouri's.

A question was asked about trespassing. This is covered in the training and volunteers are not allowed to trespass. If anyone wants information data from the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program, they can send an e-mail to Priscilla at nrstotp@dnr.state.mo.us.

303(d) List on Public Notice, Becky Shannon, WPCP

Handout: Proposed 2002 303(d) List Public Notice

The last approved 303(d) list was in 1998. The 2002 list is due to EPA on October 1, 2002. The same methodology used to develop the 303(d) list in 1998 was used for the 2002 303(d) list. DNR thought it best to use the same methodology talked about rather than change in the middle of things. EPA plans to propose a rule that would include methodologies for the 303(d) list and 305(b) report. There should be opportunity for comments. This should be finalized to use in preparation of the 2006 list.

Written comments are welcomed on this Public Notice for the 2002 303(d) list either by mail, fax or e-mail. The list will go to the CWC at the June 26 meeting. Once the comment period ends, the list will be taken before the CWC for approval at the August 7 meeting in Jefferson City.

This session, the legislature has included some language in law that says the 303(d) list will be promulgated by rule. This law goes into effect August 28, 2002. In order to meet the October 1 EPA deadline, DNR plans to proceed with the scheduled plan of bringing the list to the CWC for approval on August 7. The next list for 2006 will be promulgated by rule.

Bob Steiert mentioned that Jeannette Schafer gave an overview of the New Watershed Rule at the last WQCC meeting and it hasn't changed since then. Bob thought DNR was proceeding appropriately.

There was a question of whether the Listing Methodology Document was followed when preparing the 2002 303(d) list. Another question was raised on the threshold criteria for determining habitat loss. Becky will follow up on these questions. Becky will also check into the question of if the new reclassification of existing streams proposal is available for review.

Becky encouraged all to submit comments.

Update on SALT Projects, Ken Struempfler, SWCP

Handout: PowerPoint Presentation

AgNPS SALT stands for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment. The mission statement of the AgNPS SALT program is to improve, protect and maintain the water quality of the state of Missouri through the prevention and reduction of agricultural nonpoint source pollution using a watershed-based approach. Funding is from the 1/10th of 1% Parks and Soils Sales Tax and administered by DNR's Soil & Water Conservation Program. The grants are strictly available to local SWCDs to concentrate efforts in watershed to lessen impacts of NPS pollution. So, if a landowner is interested in this funding, they would need to go to their local SWCD to have them apply for the grant. Ken presented a map of Missouri to show where the AgNPS SALT projects are located. Currently, there are 39 projects. The projects are generally 5-7 years in length. Ken went over the goals that are set by the Soil & Water Districts Commission. The Parks and Soils Sales Tax will expire in 2008 so in 2006 they will try to get it on the voting ballot for renewal. The Districts schedule field days for the landowners so others can see how the program is working.

Role of Watershed Stewardship & Sciences Center & Water Quality Training, Bob Broz, University Outreach & Extension

Handout: "Watershed Science and Stewardship Center"

The University of Missouri is working to develop a watershed science and stewardship center. This would serve as a central area for primary contacts on a particular subject or project. They have found there is a need for educational programming efforts. They are looking to develop a certification program for watershed development and management. For the last 6 years, DNR, NRCS, and Extension has offered a Water Quality Short Course. It gives a good overview of what the new technology is and other things that are happening and to be aware of in the system. The handout included an outline of what will be covered in the 2003 Water Quality Short Course, which is scheduled for April 15-17. There was a questionnaire attached to the handout. Bob would like to have input from the group to see what types of classes we think are needed. If you have an interest or know someone who does, let Bob know on the questionnaire. Bob Ball had 3 examples of courses that are NRCS-developed and are already available, if interested. There is a list available nationwide but we need to find what is needed and beneficial in Missouri. Return questionnaire to Bob Broz by e-mail to brozr@missouri.edu or by mail at 205 Ag Engineering, Columbia, MO 65211. If you know of additional training that is being offered and not listed, please let Bob know that also. If there is interest in receiving a university credit in water quality monitoring, let them know that also.

How Budget Constraints will Effect Outreach & Environmental Quality, Tom Henderson, Director of Extension Program, UMC

The Extension division exists on federal funding through the university grant and contract activity and fees. For the last 10 years, federal funding has been cut back and they have been existing on state funding. The future of the Extension division hinges on grant and contract activity. Tom anticipated that they, on the campus side, are planning for a cut of \$620,000 in state appropriations. There may be more withholdings in FY03. We will probably see more split appointments. There are some already. A lot of open positions have been lost and a few select positions will be laid off. None of those will be in the water quality area. Extension will have to learn how to train people and become more self-sufficient. There are 2 new policies for graduate and undergraduate credit certificates that are transcribed. So, you could get a 12-18 hour graduate credit certificate if approved by graduate school and it would be transcribed. They just had one approved for a GIS course.

Business will be done differently in the future. How the university does in grant and contract work will be determined by what state and federal resources are available and how successfully the university can function. There are a record number of transfers and freshmen at the campus for this fall. University & Extension are putting together a plan for Homeland Security. One of the interesting things they are doing is partnering with

different groups. School of Natural Resources is working with the American National Fish & Wildlife Museum (by Bass Pro Shop in Springfield). They have started a conservation education program, which is funded by MDC and headed by Amy Dooley, the conservation education director. They are offering an introduction to natural resources course and are offering courses nationwide on the web through MU direct. They are talking about getting this course in the Bass Pro Shop catalog. Also available are an atmospheric science 50, an introduction to meteorology course, and Randy Miles' soils 100 (Intro to Soils). These are high demand courses. Some high school students take college courses and get credit, thereby earning dual credit. So, some students come to the university with 15 hours of advanced placement credits. A lot of courses are not being taken advantage of. There are approximately 7000 credit students on the Internet today.

Becky mentioned that the Water Quality Short Course has been funded by EPA and DNR. It started out as a 319 minigrant; nonpoint source 319 money continues to fund the Short Course.

Tom mentioned that USDA would like to take the formula funds for the state of Missouri and open those up to competitive process. That would turn Extension nationwide inside out. Most extension services are becoming state supported extension services.

Agency Activities

Bob Broz said that the Missouri Watershed Information Network (MoWIN) is doing a series of meetings statewide showing people how to use the Internet for assistance in developing watershed management planning. Information on the meetings is available on the MoWIN web site. Eight will be done the first year and 8 more the second year. Several are scheduled over the next four months.

Pete Davis informed the group of a recent field tour of the Miami Creek 319 project site was hosted by the Bates County SWCD. The project receives state cost share funds along with 319 funds. The tour made stops showing nutrient management using precision ag, GPS techniques, AFO manure and nutrient management practices, underground outlet options, buffer zone treatment, rotational grazing and I&E was a big component of the project.

Bob Steiert reminded the group that the new watershed rule still has no date that it will be out, maybe in another month or two. Just keep watching for it.

Bob Ball said that NRCS is still waiting on rules and regulations to be developed for the Farm Bill. They expect those sometime mid-August. They are waiting on funding also. They anticipate doubling EQIP funds which would need obligated before September 30. It all depends on interpretation of the rules and regulations. More information on the Farm Bill can be found on the NRCS web site.

Neil Babik mentioned that under the National Forest Management Act the Mark Twain National Forest is initiating its land and resource management plan revision process this year. There will be a series of public meetings. Comments are welcomed on the proposal. The proposal can be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/marktwain.

Adam Coulter said that one of the workshops Bob Broz referred to was held in Springfield and was targeted toward a diverse audience. They polled everyone beforehand to see what their skills and levels of involvement with the Internet were. They found that people in the urban areas were adept with Internet use; others in their district were not. So, through this workshop they were enlightened with what was offered. There is a pre-registration required because of the limited number of computers available. Adam invited everyone to stop in to view the different projects in southwest Missouri.

Verel Benson did a presentation at the Alabama Environmental Association Conference on the litter demonstration project they are working on in southwest Missouri.

Hillis Rice said that when the Farm Bill rules are interpreted, the Conservation Reserve Program will have 2 changes. Those will be in cropping history and managed hay and grazing.

Paul Andre said there was a rumor that there may be activity on the next iteration on the Pesticide Management Plan by late summer.

Meetings & Conferences

July 30	North Fork Watershed Conference, Kirksville, Truman State University
Aug 1-2	Environmental Conference at the Lake, Osage Beach, Tan-Tar-A